GUIDE TO THE OC6 IBAN FILE

[This file is concerned with the Malayo-Polynesian-speaking Iban (also known as Sea Dayak) of Sarawak, East Malaysia. They are a riverine people engaging in rice cultivation and noted for their longhouse communities. J. D. Freeman is the outstanding modern authority on their culture. His reports on their agriculture, the kinship system and social organization are notable for their scientific approach and trenchant analysis. 1: Freeman reports on agriculture; 6: Freeman on the bilek family, 11: Freeman on pottery, and 15: Freeman and 16: Freeman on social organization. Another major modern authority is Vinson Sutlive whose monograph (18: Sutlive) is a comprehensive account of the contemporary urban and rural Iban of Sibu District. The earlier authorities are Roth, Low and Howell whose descriptive accounts of native artifacts, warfare, social customs, and religious practices are indispensable for our knowledge of the Iban during the initial period of European contact. 7: Gomes supplements these earlier reports. 10: Sandin, by an Iban anthropologist, is of particular interest in regard to Iban migratory movements. 12: Haddon and Start is a competent account of Iban weaving. 2: Howell is a series of newspaper articles published in the Sarawak Gazette between 1908 and 1910 which contains a great deal of unique descriptive material. 9: Griffith discusses Iban health and disease, and 17: Bedford reports on the diet of a particular longhouse community. 8: Haile describes an Iban game and 13: Perham is an early report on shamans. This is a generally good file. However, material on language and physical anthropology is scanty. The researcher should be aware of the time depth of the file, which ranges from 1844 for 3: Low to 1971 for 18: Sutlive. In addition, the communities range from the conservative, isolated ones described by Freeman to the urban town of Sibu described by Sutlive. The file was processed between 1958 and 1975.]